

WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF REGULATION & LICENSING



Wisconsin Department of Regulation & Licensing Access to the Public Records of the Reports of Decisions

This Reports of Decisions document was retrieved from the Wisconsin Department of Regulation & Licensing website. These records are open to public view under Wisconsin's Open Records law, sections 19.31-19.39 Wisconsin Statutes.

Please read this agreement prior to viewing the Decision:

- The Reports of Decisions is designed to contain copies of all orders issued by credentialing authorities within the Department of Regulation and Licensing from November, 1998 to the present. In addition, many but not all orders for the time period between 1977 and November, 1998 are posted. Not all orders issued by a credentialing authority constitute a formal disciplinary action.
- Reports of Decisions contains information as it exists at a specific point in time in the Department of Regulation and Licensing data base. Because this data base changes constantly, the Department is not responsible for subsequent entries that update, correct or delete data. The Department is not responsible for notifying prior requesters of updates, modifications, corrections or deletions. All users have the responsibility to determine whether information obtained from this site is still accurate, current and complete.
- There may be discrepancies between the online copies and the original document. Original documents should be consulted as the definitive representation of the order's content. Copies of original orders may be obtained by mailing requests to the Department of Regulation and Licensing, PO Box 8935, Madison, WI 53708-8935. The Department charges copying fees. *All requests must cite the case number, the date of the order, and respondent's name as it appears on the order.*
- Reported decisions may have an appeal pending, and discipline may be stayed during the appeal. Information about the current status of a credential issued by the Department of Regulation and Licensing is shown on the Department's Web Site under "License Lookup." The status of an appeal may be found on court access websites at: <http://ccap.courts.state.wi.us/InternetCourtAccess> and <http://www.courts.state.wi.us/wscca>.
- Records not open to public inspection by statute are not contained on this website.

By viewing this document, you have read the above and agree to the use of the Reports of Decisions subject to the above terms, and that you understand the limitations of this on-line database.

Correcting information on the DRL website: An individual who believes that information on the website is inaccurate may contact the webmaster at web@drl.state.wi.gov

State of Wisconsin
Before the Medical Examining Board

In the Matter of the Disciplinary Proceedings Against

Dan L. Heyerdahl, M.D.	Final Decision and Order
Respondent.	LS0008241MED

The parties to this proceeding for purposes of s. 227.53, Stats., are:

Dan L. Heyerdahl, M.D.
2809 North Park Drive Lane
Appleton WI 54911

Medical Examining Board
Department of Regulation and Licensing
P.O. Box 8935
Madison WI 53708

Division of Enforcement
Department of Regulation and Licensing
P.O. Box 8935
Madison WI 53708

The parties having agreed to the attached stipulation, the Medical Examining Board makes the following:

1. Dan L. Heyerdahl, M.D., was born on June 18, 1952, and is licensed to practice medicine and surgery in the state of Wisconsin pursuant to license number 22397, first granted on July 13, 1979.
2. On Saturday, July 10, 1993, Patient Roger W., age 61, was transported by ambulance to the emergency room of the Appleton Medical Center. He had been struck by his lawn tractor rolling out of the truck onto which he was loading the lawn tractor. Mr. W. complained of severe back pain, a burning or pins and needles sensation from his right elbow to his right fingertips, right shoulder pain, and he had a bloody nose, black eye, and a swollen upper lip.
3. The physician on duty in the emergency room ordered radiographs. Three views of the cervical spine were taken. The radiologist reported that the films were less than optimal because the patient was uncooperative. The radiologist reported no plain film findings to suggest an acute bony injury.
4. Dr. David Price, the on-call physician for Dr. Heyerdahl's family practice, admitted Mr. W. to the hospital at approximately 1:30 p.m. because of the mechanism of the injury for further evaluation, close observation, and treatment.
5. The nurse's notes from the emergency room report that Mr. W. was complaining of pain, and refusing to let hospital staff move him from the cart after the radiographs were taken. Mr. W. was given 50 mg. of Vistaril IM to address the complaints of muscle pain, and, shortly thereafter, Percodan. Nursing notes for the period July 11 through 14 continue to mention that the patient was complaining of extreme pain.
6. Dr. Dan Heyerdahl took over the care of Mr. W. on July 12. His examination notes indicate that Mr. W. was very sore, and unable to sit. His assessment was multiple trauma with a flare of ankylosing spondylitis. His plan

was to increase Mr. W.'s medications and start physical therapy.

7. The physical therapist entered a progress note in the records on July 12, noting that the C5-7 dermatome was affected.

8. Dr. Heyerdahl responded to the physical therapist's note on July 13, immediately following the therapist's note in the progress record. Dr. Heyerdahl's entry indicated that he thought that physical therapy was helping Mr. W., and ordered continued treatment with the medications and physical therapy, and activity as tolerated.

9. On July 13, the physical therapist's note was a request for occupational therapy, because of the patient's complaints of weakness in both arms and hands.

10. On July 14, Dr. Heyerdahl responded to that request with an entry in the progress notes "Seems better. Cont. to push PT OT as tol. Plan activity."

11. Nursing notes for 8:30 a.m. July 14 include the information that Mr. W. was reporting numbness in both legs from the waist down, and that he was unable to move his legs, and that both arms were weak, and that he had very weak hand grasps.

12. On July 15, Dr. Heyerdahl ordered "Today is pushing. activity. self-dependency. PT OT.

13. On the evening of July 15, Dr. Price was covering for Dr. Heyerdahl when the nurses called to report that Mr. W. was not voiding urine. Dr. Price gave the nurses permission to insert a Foley catheter.

14. The next morning, July 16, Dr. Heyerdahl ordered a straight catheter, with a repeat in 8 hours. Mr. W. had been given an overdose of pain medications, and was groggy. Dr. Heyerdahl made note of the urinary retention, ordered a discontinuation of medications that affect mentality, and return to physical therapy when Mr. W. was alert.

15. At 8 a.m. on July 17, a previously uninvolved physician entered notes of an examination of Mr. W., indicating that Mr. W. had no sensation in his legs, and that he was unable to move his legs. The physician requested a neurological consultation on suspicion of damage to the upper spinal cord.

16. Decrease in sensation and strength in the extremities is a common symptom of damage to the spinal column. Loss of ability to move the legs is a common symptom of damage to the spinal cord. Urinary retention can be caused by damage to the spinal cord. Change in dermatome sensitivity is a common symptom of damage to the spinal cord.

17. The minimally competent physician confronted with the information available to Dr. Heyerdahl about Mr. W. would not order physical therapy, occupational therapy, or physical activity for the patient until he had ruled out the possibility of a fracture of the cervical spine.

18. The minimally competent physician confronted with the information available to Dr. Heyerdahl about Mr. W. would order repeat imaging studies sufficient to disclose or rule out the possibility of a fracture of the cervical spine, rather than rely on plain film radiographs of less than optimal quality which pre-date the development of additional, non-reassuring symptoms.

Conclusions of Law

1. The Medical Examining Board has jurisdiction in this matter pursuant to s. 448.03, Stats.

2. Dr. Heyerdahl's conduct constituted a danger to the health, welfare and safety of Mr. W., in violation of s. MED 10.02(2)(h), Wis. Admin. Code.

Order

Now, therefore, Dr. Dan L. Heyerdahl, M.D., is reprimanded.

It is further ordered that the license previously issued to Dr. Heyerdahl is limited, with the condition that Dr. Heyerdahl shall, no later than January 15, 2001, complete the 20 hour independent study program "Cervical Spine Injuries: Implications for Physician Practice" offered by Bartz and Associates, L.L.C. Dr. Heyerdahl shall be responsible for all costs associated with completion of this course. Dr. Heyerdahl shall submit proof of successful completion of the course to the Board or its designee on or before January 15, 2001.

The Board's designee for purposes of this order is

Disciplinary Liaison

Medical Examining Board

P.O. Box 8935

Madison WI 53708

It is further ordered that the course completed in compliance with this Order may not be credited toward compliance with the continuing medical education credits generally required for renewal of the registration to practice medicine and surgery in Wisconsin.

It is further ordered that Dr. Heyerdahl shall pay the partial costs of this proceeding in the amount of \$1000.00, pursuant to s. 440.22, Stats. Payment of costs shall be made within thirty days of the date of this order.

Wisconsin Medical Examining Board

Darold Treffert

Dated this 24th day of August, 2000

A Member of the Board